

## Police Inaction Proves Puzzle In Alteria Case

Members of the Homicide Squad Unable to Enlighten Captain Carey Regarding Importer's Murder

Inquiry Is Transferred

Coughlin Is Said to Have Taken Up Investigation; Woman Adds to Mystery

Although the police, from the command of the Homicide Squad, yesterday afternoon, were unable to enlighten Captain Carey regarding the shooting of Al Alteria in Mulberry Street last Thursday, it was learned that a woman who was waiting in a sedan automobile near the scene of the shooting immediately whisked the victim to Police Headquarters in her car. He died from his wound in the hospital.

It was reported also that Alteria had left Headquarters after a quarrel with a detective, when he was shot. He was said to be a well-known figure in the "whisky curb market" that thrives within a few doors of Headquarters. The woman who took him away before an ambulance could reach the scene is thought to have come from Boston. There were two young men in the car with her.

For some reason the Homicide Squad at Headquarters has not been called into the case. Captain Arthur A. Carey, its commander, scarcely could recall the shooting when interrogated concerning it yesterday and had to call upon Detective Sergeant Henry Oswald and others of his squad to refresh his memory.

Not Asked to Make Inquiry

"Why, I know something about the case, but the fact of the matter is I was down in Staten Island when the murder occurred," Captain Carey said. "Are you now devoting any time to the investigation into the manner in which the shooting occurred?" he was asked.

"Why, no, I haven't been asked to get into the case," came the reply, in apparent amazement that the question should have been asked. "The fact of the matter is Inspector Coughlin must be handling the case."

It is unusual for Inspector Coughlin to handle a homicide case without consulting with Captain Carey, who is the head of the Detective Bureau, and he can go as far as to say, "I was the one who was shot," was the reply.

At this point Detective Sergeant Oswald entered Captain Carey's office. He was asked by his chief what he knew about the case.

"All I know is this: I was here last Thursday when a couple of cops brought in a man who they said had shot another fellow in Mulberry Street," Oswald said. "It was only around the corner and I dashed around, but found that the wounded man had been taken to Headquarters."

Police Employees Witnessed Shooting

"I understand that two civilian employees of Headquarters witnessed the shooting and caused the arrest of Angelo Mucini, of Providence, who is now in the Tombs charged with the shooting."

"Well, how did he get to Headquarters?" Captain Carey asked.

"Just then another detective entered the room."

"Lad, captain," he said. "This guy who was shot staggered over to a sedan automobile at the curb. In the machine was a woman who, I understand, comes from Boston and a couple of young fellows. He was lifted in and the cops took him to Headquarters."

"How do you know that?" Captain Carey asked.

"I found it out by asking the chauffeur of the machine," was the reply. "What's the woman's name?" The Tribune reporter asked.

"Well, I don't know that. I wasn't handling the case," was the response. Captain Carey then turned to Oswald and asked him to continue the narrative of the day's events.

"Well, I came back to Headquarters and found Alteria sitting in a chair in the Detective Bureau upstairs," he said. The Detective Bureau is on the main floor of Police Headquarters, the Homicide Bureau, in which Oswald was telling the story yesterday, being in the basement.

"Inspector Coughlin came in the room," Oswald continued. "The wounded man was groaning and was surrounded by a large group."

"Why, I know that fellow—that's Al Alteria," Inspector Coughlin said.

"What happened to you?"

"Several other detectives came in. They all knew the wounded man and spoke to him. When the fellow was released charged with his shooting came in handcuffed to detectives the wounded man refused to identify him."

"Then the ambulance came and he was taken away," Oswald concluded.

"Well, where was this fellow shot?" Captain Carey asked.

"I don't know positively, but I think it was on Mulberry Street," Oswald said.

"Are you sure that it was not on Broome Street, just down from Headquarters?" he was asked.

"I don't know," Oswald said. "I don't know, and there, and it wasn't my case," was the reply.

Read of Case in Newspapers

The captain was then asked if he had had his attention called to the reports that Alteria had been seen to leave the Center Market Place entrance to Police Headquarters quarrel with a detective shortly before his death.

"I don't know," Oswald said. "I don't know anything about the case. Did you men ever hear of such a report?" he asked, turning to his assistants.

"Nothing except what we have read in the newspapers," was the reply.

"Well, haven't you investigated those reports?" the captain was asked.

"I have said that I have nothing to do with the case. It's up to Inspector Coughlin," Inspector Coughlin was not in. His said, Lieutenant Joseph Quinn, referred all queries to Coughlin.

At the District Attorney's office Assistant District Attorney P. Francis Marry, who handled the investigation, could not be found. It was said at his home that he was out investigating and would not return until late.

Alteria was shot and killed some where in the neighborhood of Mulberry and Broome streets, just where has not been determined. The indictment against Mucini, which was returned yesterday, and the police report give the place as 178 Mulberry Street.

The police and the District Attorney's office, however, are unable to account for the fact that the woman who was struck by a stray bullet during the shooting was found on Broome Street. They also are unable to account for the fact that the automobile in which Alteria was brought to Police Headquarters was said to be standing on Broome Street.

There is no police record of the mysterious "lady from Boston," in whose car Alteria was taken to Headquarters. There also is no explanation of what she was doing in the heart of what is known as the "whisky curb," just around the corner from Police Headquarters.

Assistant District Attorney George N. Brothers is going over the case. He will make a particular drive for verification of the report that Alteria who was mixed up in two murder cases in New York within the last five years and was known intimately at Police Headquarters and the Criminal Courts Building had a spirited quarrel with a detective at Headquarters the day of the murder.

The identity of the detective has not been revealed.

71 Teachers Strike for Raise in British Columbian Town

NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C., Feb. 16.—Seventy-one school teachers went on strike here today for higher salaries.

The board of school trustees has announced salaries will not be raised without authorization of taxpayers and has ordered the teachers to return by tomorrow on pain of dismissal.

The strikers have expressed determination to ignore the command to return to their desks.

## Negro in Duel With 5 Police Wounds Three

Civilian and Two Patrolmen Shot in Harlem Battle in Which Merchants Use Pistols to Aid Officers

Taken After Long Chase

Hundreds Endangered by Bullets of Many Weapons; One Victim in Hospital

In a pistol battle waged by a negro against five policemen and several merchants near 125th Street and Seventh Avenue yesterday a civilian was seriously wounded and two policemen suffered minor injuries, while hundreds of persons were forced to take shelter as best they could during the interchange of more than forty shots.

The shooting was the outcome of an argument over a revolver which James Bonds, colored, says he sold recently to John Wade, also colored. Bonds is twenty-two years old, says he lives at 234 West 124th Street and is employed as elevator boy at the Breton Hall apartments, Broadway and Eighty-sixth Street. Wade is twenty-two years old, lives at 372 West 125th Street and is employed as driver on a coal truck.

Argument Over Pistol

Wade was leaving his home yesterday at noon when Bonds approached and is said to have demanded payment for the revolver. Bonds is said to have told Wade: "I've been to Jersey and bought another gun, and you either come across or I'll use it on you."

Wade, accompanied by Jesse Lawrence, twenty-five years old, helper on Wade's coal truck, ran to Eighth Avenue, where Bonds, who had pursued them, opened fire. The fugitives continued through 125th Street, followed by Bonds, who kept up a steady fire as he ran.

Patrolman Clarence Austin, of the Elizabeth Street station, joined the chase and opened fire on Bonds. At Seventh Avenue Patrolman Dean Rogers, of the West 125th Street station, took up the pursuit.

Several merchants joined in the shooting, with revolvers which they brought from their places of business, but Bonds, who was firing at random, continued on his way unscathed, dodging between automobiles and behind people who were trying to get out of range. The pursuers were forced to use more care in their shooting, being afraid of hitting some of the hundred persons attracted by the fusillade.

The chase was joined by Patrolmen Thomas Burke, of the West 123d Street station, and Robert McVeigh, of Traffic C, who was doing duty at Seventh Avenue and 125th Street. McVeigh received a wound in the middle finger of his right hand and Austin was wounded in the right arm, but both continued to pursue the negro.

Near the Seventh Avenue corner Aaron O. Ingbar, manager of the Marshall Stillman gymnasium, at 162 West 125th Street, was talking to Sergeant Abraham Cohen, of the West 125th Street station. One of Bonds' shots struck him in the right breast. Ingbar was taken to Harlem Hospital by Willie Jackson, a lightweight pugilist, who is training at the Stillman gymnasium.

Bonds finally was cornered near Seventh Avenue and 125th Street, but he was not subdued until the officers had repeatedly knocked him down with their clubs and the butt ends of their revolvers. Bonds was locked up in the West 123d Street station, charged with felonious assault and violation of the Sullivan law.

## 'Bill' Edwards Mentioned in Hettrick Trial

Contractor's Letter to 'Code' Head Telling of Aid Promised in One Job Is Offered in Evidence

Stimson Clears Collector

Plumber Says His Business Was Throttled by Pact With the Accused Lawyer

"Big Bill" Edwards, Collector of Internal Revenue for this port, figured in yesterday's testimony at the trial of John T. Hettrick before Supreme Court Justice McArty. Hettrick and three co-defendants are charged with conspiring to force plumbing contractors into his "code of practice" clearing house for bids in the plumbing industry.

The Collector's name was brought to the fore in two letters which had passed between Milton Schnaier, a plumbing contractor, and Hettrick in connection with the detrimental effect, Schnaier complained, the "code of practice" was having on his business. The letters were introduced in evidence by the prosecution.

In the first letter, written in the early part of 1920, Schnaier informed Hettrick that there was a plumbing contract to be let for the Biltmore Country Club, which John McE. Bowman, head of the Bowman string of hotels, including the Biltmore, Commodore and others, was planning to build in Westchester County. Schnaier pointed out that he hoped to obtain this contract with the assistance of Collector Edwards, of whom he was an intimate friend and who in turn was on friendly terms with Mr. Bowman.

Wants Job "Code or No Code"

In another letter to Hettrick the following day Schnaier reminds Hettrick that the Biltmore Country Club job must not be allotted to any one else, "code of practice or no code of practice," as the work practically had been promised him through the kind assistance of the Collector.

Colonel Henry L. Stimson, chief prosecutor, explained to reporters that there was nothing unusual about the references in these letters to Collector Edwards, that the letters were simply introduced by the prosecution to show that the hold Hettrick had on the industry and that no plumber subscribing to the scheme could get a contract except through Hettrick's O. K. He added that he regretted the letters were introduced, as they appeared to be of little consequence and had no vital bearing on the case.

Collector Edwards said at his rooms in the Hotel Commodore last night that it was a trivial matter, that he had merely done a small favor for a friend, as any one might do.

In another letter Schnaier complained that his business was being throttled by Hettrick's code of practice scheme and served notice that he was going to get out.

"I am not going to sit idly by," he wrote. "And give up the opportunity of obtaining contracts while my overhead charges go on, just to make the code of practice a success, when it means the curtailment of my business. If your rules provide for a general sharing of business without regard to ability or hard work, you can count me out."

Schnaier was a member of the code of practice when he wrote these letters.

Oral Agreement Prevented

Henry S. Lion, an architect for Schnaier, told how his firm had bid \$90,000 for some work for a building operation of Fred S. French Company, at Seventy-second Street and Fifth Avenue. He sent the bid to Hettrick, he said, who told him he must revise it upward. Schnaier declined and tried to make an oral arrangement to do the

job for the French people on a cost plus basis the maximum price not to exceed his original bid, it was testified. As Schnaier could not make a written agreement because of the code of practice rules, the contract went to Wells & Norton, whose bid was \$94,169.

This testimony was corroborated by John A. Olson, architect for the French company. Joseph M. Kandel, another contractor, told how John L. Knight, the then head of the Master Plumbers' Association, introduced Hettrick to him as "the man who taught me how to make money out of the plumbing business."

Kandel added that the "code of practice" added to his expenses and caused him to raise his bids to builders. Kandel added that he had had trouble with his labor up to the time he joined Hettrick's scheme. Soon after he joined however, he said the trouble stopped.

William Vance, another contractor, said he had been told by President Knight that contractors not joining the code of practice would not be in good standing with the association.

The trial will continue this morning.

## 'Vagabond' Editor Prefers California to Bellevue

Magistrate Tells Widen He Must Leave Greenwich Village or Be Committed

Yesterday was a day of more than usually mixed emotions for Luther Emanuel Widen. The incident of his arrest he could dismiss with the tranquility of a philosopher, but to have a magistrate admit that Luther's magazine, "The Vagabond," was unusual and almost in the same breath banish its editor and publisher from Greenwich Village seemed to Luther to be a paradox.

He was arrested because of the suspicions which his psychological methods aroused in a detective who was trying to find out who had been stealing guns and jewelry from Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney's studio at 147 West Fourth Street. Luther's "office" is next door, and in a neighborly way he tried to help the detective and, in which he discovered psychologically.

Then the detective arrested Luther. Dr. Lindsey Keady, a witness for Luther, told Magistrate Corrigan in Jefferson Market Police Court that Luther wasn't really crazy, his manner being "a pose, or, to be more exact, a fad." Magistrate Corrigan, however, held out of one of the forty-eight copies of "The Vagabond," which Luther typewrites whenever the magazine appears.

"I am going to send you to Bellevue for observation," said the Magistrate, who turned the pages. "The Vagabond is an unusual magazine."

"Why should I go to Bellevue when I can go elsewhere?" asked Luther. "I can go to Astoria," he said.

"Well," said Magistrate Corrigan, "if you promise that you will leave Greenwich Village and not publish The Vagabond you won't be sent to Bellevue."

"I'll go to-day," replied Luther. "No, now—in fact immediately. Never shall I return."

As he marched defiantly out, however, right and left to the forty-eight subscribers to "The Vagabond," however, a less tragic mood prevailed and he allowed he might go to "Sunny California" instead of Astoria.

## L. I. Ry. Wreck Victim Dies

Van Twistern, Who Saved Two Girls, Succumbs in Hospital

William Van Twistern, forty years old, of 2063 Washington Avenue, the Bronx, died yesterday at St. Mary's Hospital. He was injured in the Long Island Railroad wreck last Sunday night.

Van Twistern, who was a trolley starter for the New York Railway Company, lost an arm in the wreck, but despite his injuries assisted two girls to safety.

It was announced at the District Attorney's office in Brooklyn yesterday that an autopsy would be performed by Dr. Ernest M. Vaughn, and if it is shown that Van Twistern's death was directly due to the wreck the charge against Edward Costello, motorman, might be changed from felonious assault to manslaughter.

## Bankers Won't Handle North Dakota Bonds

Nonpartisan League Offers to Meet Drastic Terms of Financiers, but They End All Negotiations

Risk Too Great, They Say

Factional Difficulty Adds to Townley's Troubles; Tries to Save Party Wreck

Special Dispatch to The Tribune  
MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 16.—Negotiations for the sale of North Dakota State bonds by Minneapolis, St. Paul, Chicago and Eastern banks have been dropped, and A. C. Townley and other representatives of the North Dakota government have left the Twin Cities convinced that for the present at least there is no chance to float the bonds.

Bank and trust company officials came to the conclusion that under present conditions they did not want to undertake the sale of the North Dakota bonds to the investing public for the following reasons:

Doubts expressed as to the validity of the bond issues.

The fact that the bonds already issued but unsold have been "hocked" about in Chicago and New York by irresponsible individuals and have been discredited among investors.

Back of these reasons lies another. The banking interests feel that the public would not take willingly to North Dakota bonds under the present governmental conditions in that state, but the bankers are unwilling to be placed in the position of trying to dictate to the people of North Dakota how they shall be governed.

Factions Add to Difficulty

An additional reason is the intense bitterness displayed by the two factions at Bismarck, indicating that an agreement between them on any kind of a program is almost impossible.

Minneapolis bankers who have sat in the conferences would make no definite statement to-night. They admitted that the transaction is off for the present at least. It may be reopened, but there is no immediate prospect of resuming negotiations.

Townley now faces more trouble in his own camp, where he opposed his former lieutenant, William Lemke, in caucus ten days ago and met defeat. He prevailed later on Lemke and other leaders of his North Dakota organization to let him try to find a market for state bonds on the terms that once had been offered by the North Dakota bankers committed. These terms, involving liquidation of the Bank of North Dakota and a partial abandonment of the league's industrial program, Townley told the bankers here he would undertake to put through if they would take the bonds.

Bankers Reneged on Own Terms

Even on their own terms the bankers now have decided they cannot undertake to underwrite the securities of North Dakota. So Townley returns to confess failure and to do what he can to save something out of the wreck.

On getting in touch with Chicago and Eastern financial men this week, local bankers were surprised to learn that a former North Dakota banker now directed in that state had been offering the North Dakota bonds in Chicago. Another man, formerly connected with the League Bank at Fargo, has been crying them in New York. Bayers were unwilling to touch them on any kind of terms.

It is a significant commentary on North Dakota's situation that recent efforts to borrow money for the state at 9 per cent interest have failed, while South Dakota sold \$5,000,000 of rural credit bonds bearing 6 per cent interest in Chicago last month at a premium, to yield 6.7 per cent.

## Canadian Army Officer Is Amnesia Victim Here

Police Identify Man Found Dazed on Brooklyn by a Baggage Check

Detectives Attached to the Missing Persons Bureau at Police Headquarters

announced yesterday they had established the identity of a well-dressed man, about thirty-six years old, who was found wandering about in a dazed condition on the Brooklyn Bridge last Saturday. According to detectives, the man who now is being treated at the Bellevue Hospital for amnesia, is Alastair M. Fisher, a former Canadian army officer, who was injured at the second battle of Ypres, when a bullet struck him in the temple. An operation was performed in France, which was considered successful. After the bullet was removed Fisher was unconscious for more than a month, and his recovery was regarded as a miracle.

He is married and has two children, who live with his mother in Toronto.

Special Dispatch to The Tribune

MONTREAL, Que., Feb. 16.—Alastair M. Fisher was an officer of the 13th Battalion, Royal Highlanders of Canada, joining as a subaltern at the outbreak of hostilities in 1914.

Brigadier General McQuinn said today that Fisher was gravely wounded at the second battle of Ypres, when a bullet struck him in the temple. An operation was performed in France, which was considered successful. After the bullet was removed Fisher was unconscious for more than a month, and his recovery was regarded as a miracle.

He is married and has two children, who live with his mother in Toronto.

When the patient at Bellevue was asked if he knew A. M. Fisher, right flashed in his eyes as he replied: "Why, that's my name. The 'A' stands for Alastair."

effects. Among these was a letter, with a Toronto, Canada, cancellation stamp dated January 23, 1921. The letter was addressed to A. M. Fisher, Staff House, Kenogami, Province of Quebec.

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